

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News from Sacramento

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Solar street lights for San Diego

Last year's energy crisis forced us to think of alternative energy sources. Because of California's favorable climate, solar power could be one of our most reliable sources. I've authored a bill to facilitate solar use by having local utilities and private companies work with the City of San Diego to provide solar powered streetlights in a four-to-six block radius using the most efficient technology available. This program would also allow the Energy Commission to look at our results and then share these findings with the rest of the state. If successful, hopefully other cities will follow suit. AB 2944 was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, and will be heard in the Rules Committee next.

To read the legislation go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and search for AB 2944 in "Active Bills".

Saving the state money

Collecting overpaid unemployment money costs the state a lot of money. Under existing law, the State Employment Development Department (EDD) must utilize a sheriff, Marshall or a registered process server to serve an Earnings Withholding Order (EWO) to collect overpaid unemployment benefits from individuals who have returned to work. This process cost the state \$240,876 in serving fees last year.

To save state money, I've authored legislation that would change this process. AB 2929 allows EDD to serve EWOs by certified or registered mail without the involvement of a sheriff, Marshall, or registered process server and eliminates unnecessary costs to both the department and claimants. In addition, claimants will save between \$550,000 and \$730,000 annually in fees. AB 2929 was passed by the Assembly, and is on its way to its third reading in the Senate.

To read the legislation go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and search for AB 2929 in "Active Bills".

Junk faxers have met their match

Junk faxes, like junk mail, are downright annoying. What's even more annoying is that the recipients have to pay for them in wasted paper and ink. This is why I've introduced a bill to combat junk faxes. Protecting Californians from having home and office fax machines hijacked by junk fax advertisers is the goal of AB 2944, a bill I have authored with Senator Debra Bowen (D-Redondo Beach) as principal co-author.

This new bill coincides with today's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announcement that it intends to fine Fax.com, Inc. (one of the largest junk fax outfits in the United States) \$5,379,000 for sending unsolicited fax advertisements, commonly known as "junk faxes," in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and FCC rules. While this fine is great news, it's much less than the costs Californians are forced to pick up when junk faxers send sales pitch after sales pitch over their machines, eating their fax paper, toner, time, and more. It's akin to a telemarketer calling you collect or a mail order company sending you its catalog with postage due.

AB 2944 is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is effectively identical to SB 1358 (Bowen), which was approved by the Senate on a 37-0 vote earlier this year but was defeated twice in the Assembly Business & Professions Committee. Under federal law, it's illegal to send unsolicited fax advertisements. However, California has a conflicting law allowing junk faxes as long as the fax includes a toll-free number people can call to get off of junk fax lists.

To read the legislation go to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov> and search for AB 2944 in "Active Bills".

An important anniversary for female athletes

San Diego has produced some world-class female athletes (think Gail Devers and the women of the San Diego Spirit Soccer team). These athletes may have never realized their ability had it not been for Title IX, the federal regulation that allows increased school funds for women's sports and requires that women and girls be given equal weight with men and boys to participate in school sports. This summer marks the 30th Anniversary of Title IX.

When Title IX was passed, there were virtually no athletic scholarships for women. However, Title IX has helped raise participation of girls in youth and high school sports to a record level. Participation by female collegiate athletes now represents 41 percent of all varsity athletes.

There is no doubt that over the last 30 years, Title IX has broken countless barriers for women and girls in education, sports, and their ultimate career choices -- be it law, medicine, professional soccer or basketball. But I know the job of bringing equity to women's and girls' athletics is not over. We must continue to do whatever possible to continue what Title IX began.

Please join me in the celebration of 30 years of improvement and in the continuing efforts to support and strengthen the strong compliance standards that are currently in place in Title IX. For more information on Title IX, go to <http://www.feminist.org/research/sports12.html>.

The American Disabilities Act turns twelve

An estimated 55 million people with disabilities are celebrating the 12th anniversary of the signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this summer

California has recently taken steps toward increasing physical access to government facilities and programs, because my legislative colleagues and I, working closely with Governor Davis, are committed to achieving equality and independence for all Californians with disabilities. We are committed to continuing these efforts even during these troubled financial times.

Although the ADA has already forced many needed changes, the job is far from finished. **According to??** People with disabilities are more likely than people without disabilities to drop out of high school or to suffer from poverty and unemployment. They are far less likely to vote, to own their own homes, or to use a computer to explore the Internet. If you have any questions about the ADA, you can call the ADA toll-free information line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TDD), or visit their website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>.

Visit me this Saturday

Saturday August 10th, I'm setting up a "sidewalk office" in front of VONS Market in the Balboa Mesa shopping center.. Please come by for a chat and let me know what issues are important to you. The Balboa Mesa VONS is located at 5555 Balboa Blvd. I'll be there between 10a.m. and noon. A CHP officer will be there from 11 to noon to conduct free safety fingerprinting for children. This can be a valuable record for parents to have. Hope to see you there!

San Diego Pride -- the largest ever

I was grateful to see so many people come by my pre-pride open house to say hello, share their support and enjoy the day. Working at the Capitol means I don't get to see my neighbors and friends as often as I'd like, so I appreciate your taking the time to visit me.

This year's Pride weekend was a record-breaking success. There were 213 floats in the parade and nearly 135,000 attendees --the most to date! It was a delight to see such enthusiasm and support. I hope you enjoyed the Pride festivities. For information on how you can get involved in next year's Pride festivities, go to www.sdpride.org.

Kehoe Library -- new workbooks for kids

Just because school's out doesn't mean it's time to stop learning. Teach your kids about California legislation with fun activities in the new "Legislative Activity Book". This, along with many other booklets and brochures, are available in my office. Email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov to get a complete listing of our brochures and have some sent to you.